

Summary

The 1996 North Carolina Equine Survey accounted for 132,000 head of equine in the state. Equine are found on 26,300 places and average five horses per operation. The average operation has 18.9 acres of land associated with equine, totaling 446,000 acres for the state. The survey identified 33,000 owners of equine in North Carolina, 6,700 which do not stable horses on their own property. The average equine owner has 4 horses.

Number of Equine Operations, by Size, Average per Operation, 1996

Operation Size (Head)	Number of Operations	Number of Equine	Average Equine Per Operation
1-2	10,800	17,500	1.6
3-5	9,600	35,500	3.7
6-10	3,500	26,000	7.4
11-24	1,800	27,500	15.3
25 +	600	25,500	42.5
Total	26,300	132,000	5.0

Light horse breeds, at 105,400 head, dominate North Carolina's equine inventory, accounting for 80 percent of the equine in the state. Race horse inventory, at 10,400 head, is a distant second and comprise 8 percent of the total.

The value of total equine in North Carolina is estimated at \$533 million dollars. Light horse breeds, valued at \$383 million, account for 72 percent of the total. The average value per animal is \$4,038.

Equine income is estimated at \$97 million in 1996 with sales and boarding representing 65% of the income. Equine related expenses total \$274 million, with feed, labor, maintenance and health accounting for the largest share of the expense. An additional \$40 million is paid in property taxes, insurance and debt payments. Equine related assets are valued at \$3.27 billion with 5 percent of the assets purchased in 1996. The average value of equine related assets per horse in North Carolina is estimated at \$24,773.

The average age of an equine owner is 44, with 70 percent of the owners falling between the ages of 36 and 65. Eighty-three percent of equine owners have been involved with equine for over 5 years.